

## **Cervical Screening Programme**

### ***Does the test cost to the provider?***

- Both the test kits and the laboratory processing are free of charge to providers

### ***If you are not enrolled with a GP and choose to do a self-swab. Who does the result go to?***

- All providers offering testing must have a responsible clinician who will receive and follow up on the test results. Follow up is a key part of the screening pathway.
- If people are not enrolled in a GP, they can access HPV primary screening from other providers such as Family Planning.

### ***Are you intending to do any specific health promotion for transgender people? Local research shows at least 33% of trans people who would need cervical screening delay because of anticipated discrimination as a trans or non-binary person.***

- Yes. Engagement is currently underway with takatāpui, including transgender and non-binary people to seek understanding of how they would like to be communicated with about cervical screening. Over the next few months, bespoke resources will be developed for transgender people.
- We are also seeking real stories from transgender people who have done the self-test to share their experience, though this will depend on their level of comfort to come forward and speak on the topic.

### ***Can Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) workers - fruit pickers who come in from Pacific Islands - access this screening programme and in additional referral on for further treatment if required?***

- They could access services however they may not be publicly funded. There is specific criteria for this.
- <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/eligibility-for-publicly-funded-health-services/>

### ***Are resources available for new migrants with English as a second language?***

- Over the next few months, engagement is underway to test the developed resources and understand how they might be distilled down into a single resource that can be translated into a variety of languages, including ethnic and Asian languages. We are also developing video resources to increase accessibility.

### ***Who can offer cervical screening?***

- Currently accredited sample takers (nurses and Nurse Practitioners who have completed NZQA training), GPs and midwives can offer cervical screening.
- The NCSP is currently working on expanding the workforce of who can offer and consent for self-testing.

## **SELF-TESTING/LBC/CO-TESTING:**

### ***Can people choose to have cytology instead of, or as well as, an HPV test?***

- No – all primary screening tests will be an HPV test. Cytology will only be performed if HPV is detected, or if requested as a co-test due to the patient having symptoms or as a Test of Cure.
- Participants can choose to have cervical screening via the following options:
  - A vaginal swab taken by the patient (i.e. a self-test)
  - A vaginal swab taken by a clinician (cervical sample taker)
  - Some people may also prefer for a clinician to perform a speculum examination and take a Liquid based cytology (LBC) sample for their cervical screen. This sample type will only be tested for HPV initially (in routine screening). If HPV is detected, reflex cytology will then be performed.
- An LBC sample for both HPV and cytology testing is required for people:
  - With symptoms
  - Needing a test of cure
  - Needing a co-test for follow-up
- An LBC sample may be a pragmatic choice in the following scenarios so that if HPV is detected, a return visit is not required (as reflex cytology will be performed on the same sample):
  - People with previous low-grade results who have not returned to regular screening
  - At 12 or 24 month follow-up after a “HPV Detected Type Other” result
  - People with immune deficiency – this is because people with immune deficiency should be referred for colposcopy if HPV of any type is detected and where possible this should be informed by cytology results
  - People who may find follow-up difficult, e.g. live rurally, unlikely or unable to return
- Refer to the [NSP Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) for HPV testing and/or cytology recommendations in special clinical circumstances, e.g. people with cervical lesions, after hysterectomy, follow-up after colposcopy or treatments

### ***Should I use ThinPrep or SurePath vials?***

- This depends on the laboratory you are using.
- Awanui & Pathlab – SurePath
- APS - ThinPrep

### ***Can people take the swabs home to do their test there?***

- Yes, as long as the clinician who consents the person has a process to ensure return of the kit and follow up. Only dry swabs can be given to the person to take home.

### ***How long do we have to get swabs back to the lab once they are taken?***

- This depends on the lab and swab used. It is recommended that all specimens are transported to the laboratory as soon as possible and not exposed to extreme heat (eg not left in direct sunlight or unoccupied car).
- **Awanui** – swabs must be processed within 28 days
- [www.awanuilabs.co.nz/south/nmt/2023/08/28/changes-to-the-national-cervical-screening-programme-ncsp-hpv-primary-testing/](http://www.awanuilabs.co.nz/south/nmt/2023/08/28/changes-to-the-national-cervical-screening-programme-ncsp-hpv-primary-testing/)
- APS, swabs must be processed within 28 days [HPV-Primary-Screening-Edition-2-23-June-2023-final.pdf \(labplus.co.nz\)](https://www.labplus.co.nz/HPV-Primary-Screening-Edition-2-23-June-2023-final.pdf)
- **Pathlab**, Swabs must be processed within 14 days. <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/hpv/>

### **VACCINATION:**

#### ***Should we offer vaccination for people who have HPV detected?***

- HPV vaccination does not treat current infection with HPV. However, it will protect the person from the HPV types covered by the vaccination that they have not yet been exposed to, so vaccination should be offered to those who are eligible.

#### ***If someone isn't vaccinated should they be screened early or more frequently?***

- No, HPV vaccination status has no impact on screening recommendations

### **CLAIMING & COSTS:**

#### ***Is the funding model going to change?***

- Due to the short timeframe to implement the funding model we are taking a two staged approach. Stage 1 was implemented for 12 September go live and we will work with the sector on a more outcomes focused funding model due to be implemented in 2024.

#### ***Can I claim for a person entitled for funded screening who isn't due their screen yet?***

- If the person is due their routine screen within the next 6 months you can do the screen now and claim for this. This doesn't apply to Test of Cure, which should not be done too early.

#### ***Can I claim for informing a funded person of their results and/or sending a referral to colposcopy?***

- The \$35 payment is intended to cover the consultation, informing the patient of their results and sending any required referrals. There is not separate funding available for these tasks.

### ***Can someone who wants to be screened more frequently/early access funded screens?***

- No. Funding is only available for people who meet the eligibility criteria and whose next routine screen is due within the next 6 months.

### **REGISTER:**

#### ***When will recalls be sent from the NCSP Register?***

- This will be rolled out gradually, starting with those newly eligible for the programme (eg turning 25 years old and new to NZ) and those who aren't enrolled in primary care.
- Please continue to recall your patients as you do currently, until the NCSP is sending out all recalls, which is expected to be in March 2024.

### **KEY WEBSITE LINKS:**

- Participant resources <https://www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening/cervical-screening-resources/>
- Learning resources including link to modules, Goodfellow webinar etc <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/ncsp-hpv-screening/understand-hpv-primary-screening/#learning-resources>
- Screening Eligibility and funding information under clinical information here <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/ncsp-hpv-screening/understand-hpv-primary-screening/#screening-eligibility-funding-and-fees>
- <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/ncsp-hpv-screening/understand-hpv-primary-screening/PMS> vendors including outcome codes <https://www.nsu.govt.nz/health-professionals/national-cervical-screening-programme/patient-management-systems>
- Clinical practice guidelines [https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/Our-health-system/Screening/HPV-Primary-Screening/clinical\\_practice\\_guidelines\\_final\\_version\\_1.1.pdf](https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/Our-health-system/Screening/HPV-Primary-Screening/clinical_practice_guidelines_final_version_1.1.pdf)
- Where to go to get support <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/ncsp-hpv-screening/understand-hpv-primary-screening/#finding-support>